

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2744
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
MISMANAGEMENT IN NSFS
Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noticed any mismanagement in the National Sports Federations (NSFs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, federation-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed the guidelines for monitoring the functioning of the management of NSFs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) Madam, Sports Federations are autonomous bodies and Government gives recognition to National Sports Federations (NSFs) after satisfying itself of various conditions, such as, holding of fair and transparent elections, age and tenure guidelines, prevention of fraud of age and of sexual harassment of sportspersons and thereafter provides financial assistance as per the norms of Scheme of "Assistance to National Sports Federations". National Sports Federations which do not adhere to the guidelines laid down for them or if any serious irregularities are found in order to bring transparency and accountability in the functioning of the national sports bodies, Government has formulated a regulatory framework with the objective of promoting good governance among sports bodies. The Draft of the National Sports Bill has been placed in the public domain for pre-legislative stakeholders consultations, the salient features of which are as under :

(i) Central Government support for development and promotion of sports including financial & other support for preparation of National teams, athletes' welfare measures and promoting ethical practices in sports including elimination of doping practices, fraud in age and sexual harassment in sports, Rights and obligations of the Indian Olympic Association and National Sports Federations (including adoption of basic universal principles of good governance and professional management of sports).

(ii) Participation of athletes in the management/decision making of the concerned NSF and the Indian Olympic Association through the Athletes Advisory Council.

(iii) Duties and responsibilities of the Sports Authority of India and the Government of India, which have been clearly defined.

(iv) Mechanism for sports dispute settlement and establishment of a Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal.

(v) Greater autonomy to National Sports Federations and dilution of control of Government over the National Sports Federations.

(vi) Bring National Sports Federations under Right to Information Act, 2005 with certain exclusion clauses for protecting personal/confidential information relating to athletes.

(vii) Specific provision has been inserted in the anti-doping clause to exclude the administering by the National Anti Doping Agency of those provisions of the World Anti Doping Agency Code to which the International Federation of the Sport is not subject.

(viii) A duty has been enjoined upon the coaches, guardians and other support personnel to prevent unethical practices in sports such as doping and fraud of age.

Specific provisions have also been made to ensure that National Sports Federation, the National Olympic Committee, the Sports Authority of India adopt or undertake measures not only to prohibit sexual harassment at workplace for sports but also provide appropriate conditions for women in respect of work, leisure, health and hygiene. Other measures have been provided for setting up a complaint mechanism for redressal of complaints with a committee headed by a woman, or a special counselor, whilst adhering to the principle of confidentiality.

Government has also issued instructions dated 3.4.12 for the Central Government Servants relating to prior approval of the Government for contesting/canvassing in elections to sports bodies

Compliance to the directions of the Government by the NSFs has been made mandatory to receive government recognition and thereby become eligible to receive financial as well as other forms of assistance from Government of India such as railway concessions, income tax exemption, custom duty exemption, etc. and to derive the authority to perform the public functions of selecting and deputing the national teams for participation in recognized continental and world level international sports competitions which involve representation of member countries and to represent the country in international associations, events, meets, conferences, etc. No National Sports Federation has been given annual recognition by the Government which has not adhered to these instructions for the elections held after the issue of these guidelines of 1-5-2010.

(e) Does not arise. their functioning, appropriate action as deemed fit is taken by Government. No such case has been noticed during the last three years and the current year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Government has issued guidelines imposing age and tenure limit in respect of office bearers of National Sports Federations, including the Indian Olympic Association, which has further been reiterated in the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011, which was issued on 31.1.2011. As per the guidelines, the Government has, inter-alia, provided the following age and tenure limits in respect of office bearers of the NSFs:

i. The President of any recognized National Sports Federation, including the Indian Olympic Association can hold the office for a maximum period of twelve years with or without break.

ii. The Secretary (or by whatever other designation such as Secretary General or General Secretary by which he is referred to) and the Treasurer of any recognized National Sports Federation, including the IOA, may serve a maximum of two successive terms of four years each after which a minimum cooling off period of four years will apply to seek fresh election to either post.

iii. The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer of any recognized National Sports Federation, including the Indian Olympic Association, shall cease to hold that post on attaining the age of 70 years.

iv. The conditions (i) to (iii) above will be subject to the proviso that it shall not disturb the current tenure of any member, provided he/she has been properly elected to the post. In other words, the tenure condition will become operative for all future elections as they may be conducted in future in their normal course.